Dungeness National Nature Reserve

The RSPB

The RSPB, Europe's largest wildlife charity has a long history on Dungeness. Since the early twentieth century it has employed watchers to look after the breeding seabirds on the shingle. The RSPB manages large areas of gravel pits, reed beds and shingle habitats which have colonies of seabirds, breeding ducks and wintering wildfowl.

To discover more and explore the **Dungeness RSPB** reserve, why not visit the reserve with its new Visitor and **Education Centre and** shop. You can also explore a number of nature trails and hides around the gravel pits of Dungeness with large car parks and toilets also available. Contact the RSPB on 01797 320588. www.rspb.org.uk

The Water Tower

A distinctive landmark across the shingle landscape is the white capped water tower which is at the back of a gravel pit on the road between Lydd and Dungeness. This impressive tower was built in 1905. The drinking water for most of the Romney Marsh comes from a large aquifer under the shingle and is of excellent quality.





Railway

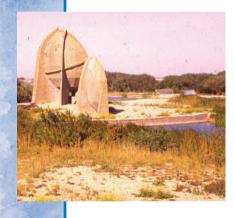
The Romney, Hythe and Dymchurch Light Railway terminates at Dungeness and is a popular tourist attraction for the region. The narrow gauge railway was built in 1927 from Hythe to New Romney and the extension to Dungeness followed a year later. Captain John Howey, a railway enthusiast, built the RHDR after making his fortune from real estate in the centre of Melbourne, Australia. Website www.rhdr.org.uk





Listening Ears At the back of two gravel pits at Lade on an island are the three concrete mirrors, or listening ears, built in the 1920s and 1930s to detect enemy aircraft as they approached Britain. This is the only site in Britain where all three designs are situated in one place. This early warning system had a range of 20 miles and became obsolete by the outbreak

of the Second World War due to the arrival of radar, however they have survived. They can be seen on free, non booking, guided walks in the summer. Website: www.rmcp.co.uk

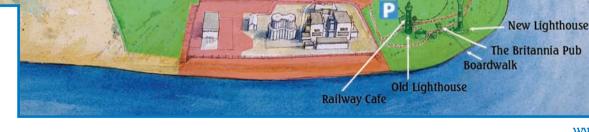


Lighthouses

There have been five lighthouses built at Dungeness over the centuries. Today, the Old Lighthouse, which was built in 1904, still stands adjacent to the Round House which once had a light on the top itself. The New Lighthouse (the stripy one) was built in 1961 to aid shipping further out on the Point. The New Lighthouse remains operational, while the Old Lighthouse is a tourist attraction. www.dungenesslighthouse.com

Lydd Ranges

The vast Lydd Ranges have been owned by the Ministry of Defence since 1881, with the Royal Irish Rifles forming the first garrison there. The first permanent buildings were erected in 1906 in what are today very busy firing ranges stretching from Camber to near the power stations.



Power Stations

There are two nuclear power stations at Dungeness, the oldest and nearest to the lighthouse was built in the late 1950s and early 1960s, with decommissioning starting in early 2007. The second power station which started generating electricity in 1983 continues to operate. Websites www.britishnucleargroup.com (Dungeness A) and www.british-energy.com (Dungeness B).



Lifeboats

The big white lifeboat station was built in the late 1970s. The old lifeboat station was built in 1921 and is situated near to the fishing boats about half a kilometre nearer to the Point.

www.dungeness-lifeboat.org.uk





plants and animals living at Dungeness are distinctive, precious and exceptionally fragile. The diverse wildlife, complex land form and sheer size make Dungeness one of the best examples of a shingle beach in the world.



lighthouses and expansive gravel pits. The communities of

Dungeness is an unique landscape with wooden houses, power stations, a miniature railway line,

Dungeness

and motorbikes Four wheel drive vehicles

designated laybys and car parks. who persist in damaging the NNR. Please park in the quicker prosecutions and hefty fines to individuals is a Special Nature Conservation Order which allows are not permitted to drive on Dungeness NNR. There Four wheel drive vehicles, motorbikes and quad bikes

visitors. NNB marked for clearly areas are Parking



reserve and the shingle adjacent to the and parts of Greatstone. As well as the RSPB the Point and encompasses Lydd-on-Sea, Lade The NNR reserve stretches north up the coast from

Dengemarsh Road next to the Lydd Firing Ranges.

Rubbish

across the NNR. rubbish bins provided home or put it in the Please take your rubbish

Spou

control and clean up after them. keep your dogs under the other users of the area, reserve. Please consider exception of the RSPB Dungeness NNR with the Dogs are allowed on

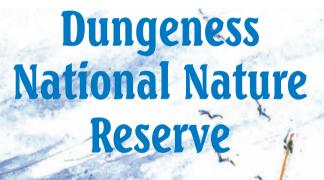
the waymarked paths residents and keep to Please respect the privacy of the

your garden It is not usual to have a National Nature Reserve at the bottom of the garden or opposite your house, but many residents of Dungeness do. Help look after the NNR by not having fires or dumping rubbish on the land. Improving the quality of life

and the landscape is the goal for all of us – for

generations to come.

A National Nature Reserve at the bottom of



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Medicinal Leech



Male Great Crested Newt © Brian Banks



Male Smew © RSPB Images

Wildlife at Dungeness

June out for the plants which are at their best in late favour the pebble landscape close to the sea. Look Dungeness has many distinctive plants which

Wild Carrot. Nottingham Catchfly and Poppy, Viper's Bugloss, Sea Pea, Yellow Horned These include Sea Kale,

as does the yellow grow in a prostrate torm Blackthorn or sloe trees hostile landscape. a wealth of trees in this Dungeness does not have

Viper's Bugloss.

the Sussex

smothered in lichens due to the clean air. landscape. The blackthorns in particular can be flowered broom bushes which hug the shingle



Sussex Emerald Moth

where this moth is found. Carrot. Dungeness is the only place in Britain appears in July. The caterpillar feeds on Wild шоци мијси

largest populations of Smew can be seen. the gravel pits and in the winter some of the summer months where it breeds on the islands on Dungeness, the Common Tern can be seen in the found in the UK. Birds are a speciality of the medicinal leech, the largest species of leech Crested Newt and are the best area in Britain for The gravel pits are home to the protected Great

home with you.

your litter – take it

Please don't leave

A National Nature Reserve

Dungeness has been designated as a National Nature Reserve (NNR), a Special Protection Area (SPA) and a Special Area for Conservation (SAC). It is home to many rare and endangered insects, plants and wildlife. The National Nature Reserve stretches across Dungeness to encompass the vast RSPB reserve and is intended to help protect the landscape and its wildlife.

Gravel extraction across Dungeness

Dungeness has attracted the gravel extraction industry for years. You will see the legacy of gravel extraction in the number of old gravel pits across the landscape. Breeding seabirds and wintring wildfowl, like the Shoveler Duck, the rare Great Crested Newt and Medicinal Leech now benefit from such wetland sites.

Romney Marsh Countryside Project Romney Marsh Day Centre, Rolfe Lane, New Romney, Kent TN28 8JR Tel: 01797 367934 Email mail@rmcp.co.uk Website www.rmcp.co.uk

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